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**PATENT REQUEST: STANDARD PATENT / PATENT OF ADDITION**

I / We, being the person(s) identified below as the Applicant, request the grant of a patent to the person identified below as the Nominated Person, for an invention described in the accompanying standard complete specification.

Full application details follow.

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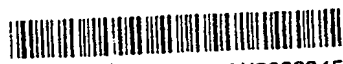
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(12) PATENT ABSTRACT (11) Document No. AU-A-32945/93  
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THIS INVENTION relates to a method of manufacture of pelmets which are used over access ways such as doors and windows to improve the appearance of curtaining which is applied to such access ways and in order to control loss and entry of heat through such access ways.  
In one form the invention resides in a method of manufacture of a covered pelmet comprising forming a front panel, two side panels and a top panel to the desired configuration, mounting the side panels at each end of the front panel to be hingedly interconnected thereto to form a combined panel, forming a piece of fabric of similar shape with a combined panel but of greater dimensions, laying the combined panel over the fabric, folding and fixing one end edge of the fabric to an end of the combined panel, folding and fixing the other end edge of the fabric to the other end of the combined panel while applying a force along the fabric to tension the fabric longitudinally between the ends, folding and fixing the edge of the fabric adjacent the top edge to the rear face of the combined panel, supporting the combined panel such that the side panels adopt the desired final position in relation to the front panel and where both the front and rear face of the combined panel are accessible, folding and fixing the edge of the fabric adjacent the bottom edge to the rear face of the combined panel while applying a gentle tension to the

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fabric such that the fabric is not significantly tensioned transversely between the top and bottom edges, laying the combined panel flat and applying a lining to the rear face, fixing the top panel to the combined panel adjacent the top edge of the front and side panels.

THIS INVENTION relates to a method of manufacture of pelmets which are used over access ways such as doors and windows to improve the appearance of curtaining which is applied to such access ways and in order to control loss and entry of heat through such access ways.

The invention represents a significant advance over previous methods of forming covered pelmets in that it ensures that the final product is clean in its appearance since it avoids some steps which in the past have caused surface discontinuities which have been observed in padded pelmets which have been formed by previous techniques. Almost all previous techniques have required the induction of a strong transverse tensioning between the bottom and side edges of the panel which have resulted in many of the surface discontinuities. Furthermore the techniques of forming covered pelmets in the past have been both time consuming and have involved the utilisation of skilled labour in order to produce a satisfactory product. One technique has involved forming the fabric which is to be applied to the base panel as a tube where the combined panel is then inserted into the tube which then requires the fixing of the tube to the base and panel in a manner which ensures that the junction between the front face of the fabric and the line is accurately located along the bottom edge and that the tension which is applied to the fabric at the front face is substantially uniform. Such fixing is generally formed with the base panel lying in a flat condition with the rear face uppermost. During this time it is not possible to conveniently monitor the appearance of the front face while the fabric is being applied to the rear face of the panel which prevents an accurate monitoring of the appearance of the front face of the panel during the application of the fabric to the panel.

In one form the invention resides in a method of manufacture of a covered pelmet comprising forming a front panel, two side panels and a top panel to the desired configuration, mounting the side panels at each end of the front panel to be hingedly interconnected thereto to form a combined panel, forming a piece of fabric of similar shape with a combined panel but of greater dimensions, laying the combined panel over the fabric, folding and fixing one end edge of the fabric to an end of the combined panel, folding and fixing the other end edge of the fabric to the other end of the combined panel while applying a force along the fabric to tension the fabric longitudinally between the ends, folding and fixing the edge of the fabric adjacent the top edge to the rear face of the combined panel, supporting the combined panel such that the side panels adopt the desired final position in relation to the front panel and where both the front and rear face of the combined panel are accessible, folding and fixing the edge of the fabric adjacent the bottom edge to the rear face of the combined panel while applying a gentle tension to the fabric such that the fabric is not significantly tensioned transversely between the top and bottom edges, laying the combined panel flat and applying a lining to the rear face, fixing the top panel to the combined panel adjacent the top edge of the front and side panels.

According to a preferred feature of the invention padding is applied to the front face of the panel of the combined panel underneath the fabric. Such padding may be applied to the combined panel prior to the application of the fabric. Alternatively the padding can be applied to the inner face of the fabric.

According to a further preferred feature of the invention a strip of material having a piped edge is applied to the bottom edge of the combined panel after the fabric has been

fixed over the bottom edge whereby the piped edge lies along the bottom edge and the strip lies adjacent the rear face of the combined panel and is affixed thereto. Affixing of the piped edge can be effected by means of a double sided adhesive strip which is applied along the bottom edge of the combined panel.

According to a further preferred feature of the invention the lining is tacked, stapled or similarly fixed to the rear face of the combined panel adjacent the top edge and is adhered adjacent the side and bottom edges by an adhesive.

According to a further preferred feature of the invention the top panel is fixed to the combined panel at a plurality of spaced intervals by pieces of a hook and loop fixing means such as "VELCRO" which are fixed at spaced intervals along the top edge of the combined panel at spaced intervals along the side edges and front edges of the top panel.

The invention will be more fully understood in the light of the following description of one specific embodiment. The description is made with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:-

Figure 1 is an exploded isometric view of the panels which form a pelmet according to the embodiment;

Figure 2 is an isometric view of the combined panel of the embodiment;

Figure 3 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the application of the padding thereto;

Figure 4 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the application of the fabric thereto where the ends of the fabric are attached to the ends of the combined panel;

Figure 5 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the fabric applied to the top edge of the panel;

Figure 6 is an isometric view of the combined panel which is supported in an inverted upstanding position showing the application of the fabric to the bottom edge of the combined panel;

Figure 7 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the application of an adhesive strip to the bottom edge;

Figure 8 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the application of the piped strip thereto;

Figure 9 is an isometric view of the combined panel showing the application of the lining and hook and loop fixing members thereto;

Figure 10 is an isometric view of the complete pelmet; and

Figure 11 is an isometric view showing a form of attachment for the piping.

The method according to the embodiment relates to the forming of a padded pelmet which is applied over the top of the curtain windows. The purpose of such pelmets is to hide the track mechanisms which are used to support the windows. Furthermore pelmets serve to control loss of heat from a room by controlling the flow of air from and to the space defined between the window pane and the curtain.

The pelmet according to the embodiment is formed from a front panel 11 two side panels 12 and 13 and a top panel 14. The configuration of the top and bottom edge of the combined panel and the side panels may take any desired configuration according to the requirements of the customer.



The forming of the front side and top panels the front and side panels are interconnected in an end to end relationship by application of a length of flexible adhesive strip 15 to the front and rear faces of the adjacent panel at their adjacent edges as shown at figure 2 whereby the side panels are hingedly interconnected with the front panel 15 to be capable of free hinged movement relative to the front panel. The resulting combined panel is then laid over a length of padding material having slightly larger dimensions than the dimensions of the combined panel whereby the front face overlies the padding 16. The edges of the padding are then folded over the edges of the combined panel are affixed to the rear face of the combined panel by tacking stapling or the like as shown at figure 3.

On completion of the application of the padding of the combined panel a length of fabric having the desired pattern thereon is formed. In forming the length of fabric it may be necessary to join a number of pieces of fabric in side by side relationship and on completion of such forming the length is pressed to be free of creases and then is rolled. When it becomes necessary to apply the fabric to the combined panel the length of fabric is unrolled onto a surface and the front face of the padded combined panel 11 is laid over the length of fabric 19. In applying the fabric to the combined panel one end of the length of fabric is folded over and fixed to the rear face of the combined panel adjacent the respective edge. The fabric is then tensioned longitudinally and the other end of the fabric is fixed to the rear face of the combined panel adjacent the other end of the combined panel by tacking stapling or the like as shown at Figure 4. The tensioning of the fabric between the ends is for the purpose of removing any creases or like discontinuities in the surface of the fabric.

As shown at Figure 5 the fabric adjacent the top edge of the panel is then folded over the top edge of the combined panel and is affixed to the rear face by stapling or suitable means. In addition the fabric is cut and folded at the ends of the top edge to provide a mitred finish. Up to this point in time the fabric has been applied to the combined panel while the combined has been in a substantially coplanar or flat condition.

As shown at Figure 6 the combined panel is then located in a support arrangement such that it is in a upstanding inverted condition and is supported between a plurality of spaced upstanding brackets 18 such that the side panels are caused to adopt the position relative to the front panel that would be adopted when the pelmet is in position. As a result the fabric 17 which has already been applied to the combined panel is tensioned longitudinally to the extent that it will be when the pelmet is installed and access can be had to both sides of the panel. Whilst in this position the fabric adjacent the bottom edge of the combined panel is then folded over the bottom edge and is fixed to the rear face by tacking stapling or like means. During this action only the minimal tension is applied to the fabric such that there is substantially little transverse tension produced in the fabric between the top and bottom edges. In addition the fabric at the ends of the combined panel is cut and folded to form a mitred finish and the fixing of the fabric at the junction between the side panels and the front panel is effected to permit free hinged movement between the side panels and the front panels. The result of the gentle transverse tensioning which is applied to the fabric during its application to the bottom edge of the panel results in a rounded edge formed at the bottom edge of the panel at least.

As shown at figure 7 while the combined panel is supported by the support brackets 18 a length of double sided adhesive strip 19 is applied along the bottom edge of the combined panel.

As shown at figure 8 a strip 20 of material having a piped edge is applied along the bottom edge such that the piped edge 21 overlies the bottom edge and is bonded thereto by the adhesive strip 19. The balance of the strip lies adjacent the rear face of the combined panel and is fixed by stapling tacking or the like to the rear face of the combined panel. With completion of the application of the piped strip to the combined panel the panel is then removed from the support bracket 18 and is caused to lie flat. A strip of lining material is then applied to the rear face of the panel such that its edges are spaced slightly inwardly from the edges of the covered combined panel. The lining 22 is preferably formed from a coated fabric which serves to prevent fraying of the fabric. The application of the lining comprises stapling or similarly fixing the lining along the edge which is adjacent the top edge of the combined panel and adhering the side and bottom edges to the combined panel by use of an adhesive which is applied to the undersurface of the lining 22.

In order to enable fixing of the combined covered panel to the top panel 14 a plurality of pieces 23 of a hook and loop fastener such as the material marketed under the trade mark "VELCRO" are applied at spaced intervals along the length of the top edge of the combined panel and along the side and front edges of the top panel 14 at corresponding intervals. In addition a length of material of similar form is fixed to each end of the combined panel at the top edge to form tabs 23 which extend laterally therefrom and a piece of complementary material is fixed to the upper surface of the top panel 14 at the side edges thereon. The

use of pieces of the fastening material enables the combined panel to be readily removed from the top panel subsequent to installation when access is required to the top of the curtains for removal, or rehangng of the curtains or repair of the track.

In fixing the pelmet to a wall above a window space the top panel is fixed to the conventional brackets which are used to support the curtaining and the combined panel can then be applied to the top panel by interconnecting the complementary fastenings applied to both members. In the event that the brackets for the curtaining are not located in a horizontal line it is possible to adjust the positioning of the combined panel relative to the top panel to ensure that the location of the top panel is substantially horizontal.

If desired the piping which is applied to the bottom edge of the combined panel according to the embodiment need not be applied. In such an instance the gently rounded edge which is formed at the bottom edge of the panel as a result of the gently transverse tensioning applied to the fabric ensures an attractive appearance along the bottom edge of the panel.

In addition if desired the bottom edge of the panel may be scalloped or contoured according to the customers requirements. In such an instance it becomes necessary to form transverse cuts in the portions of the fabric and of the piping strip which overlies the rear face adjacent the bottom edge in order that such portions be substantially flush with the rear face. As shown at figure 11 in order to prevent damage to the piping 21 the piping strip 20 is formed along its length intermediate its width with a line 25 having a configuration corresponding to the configuration of the bottom edge. The line 25 may be

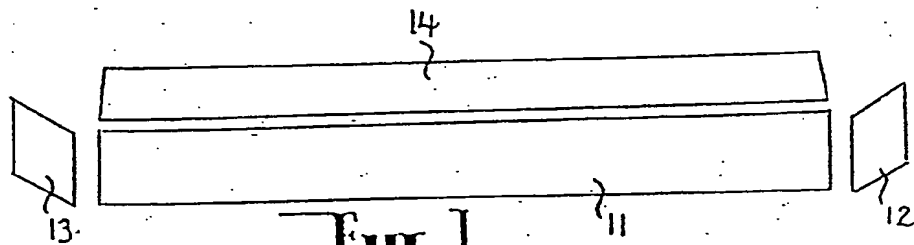
formed by forming a sewn line in the strip. On locating the strip on the combined panel the line is located to correspond with the bottom edge of the combined panel. The line then serves as an indication of the depth of the cuts to be formed in the strip 20 to ensure that the piping 21 is not damaged by the formation of the cuts.

It should be appreciated that the scope of the present invention need not be limited to the particular scope of the embodiment described above.

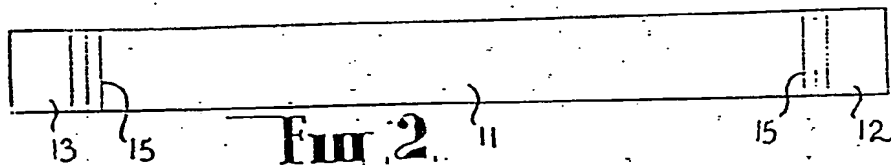
DATED this TWENTY EIGHTH day of FEBRUARY 1992

DAVID JOHN CROUCHER  
Applicant.

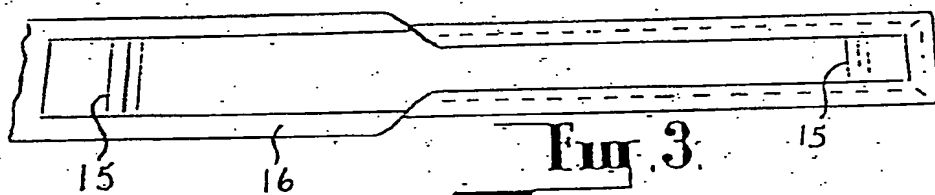
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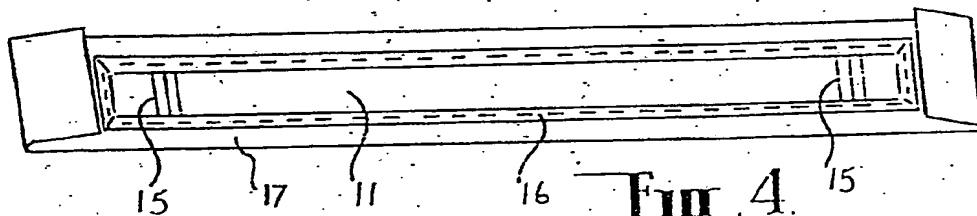
**Fig. 1.**



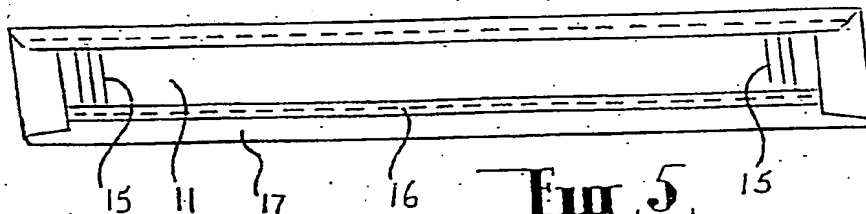
**Fig. 2.**



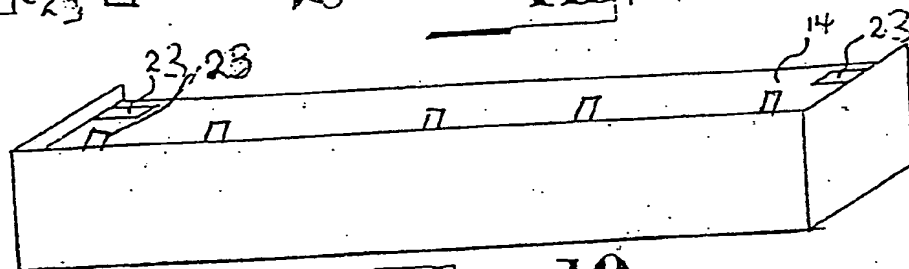
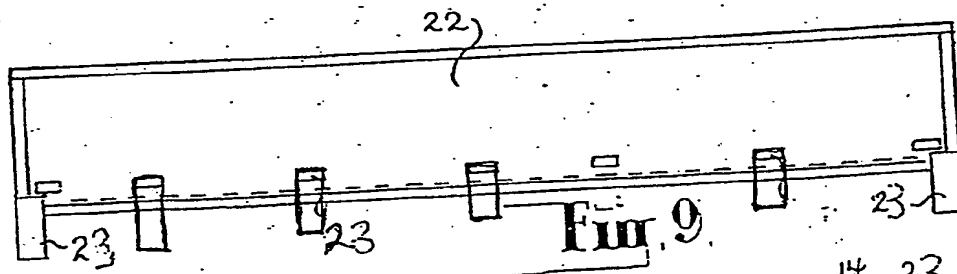
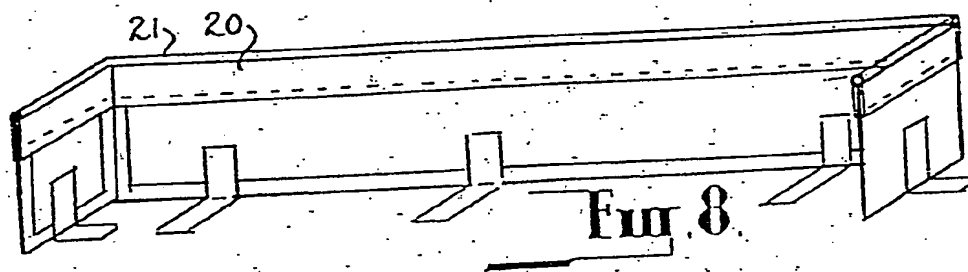
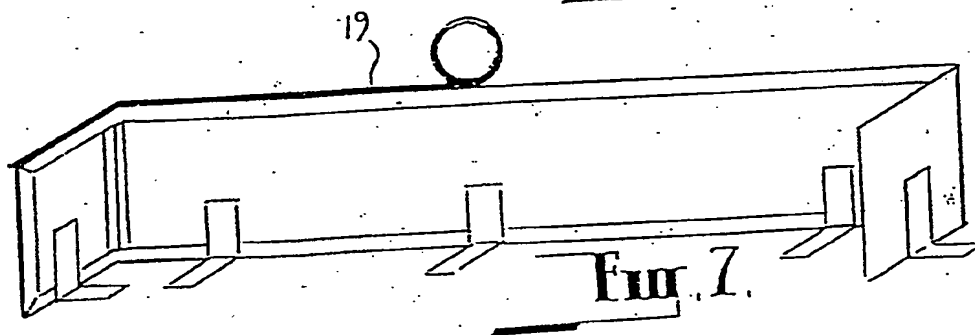
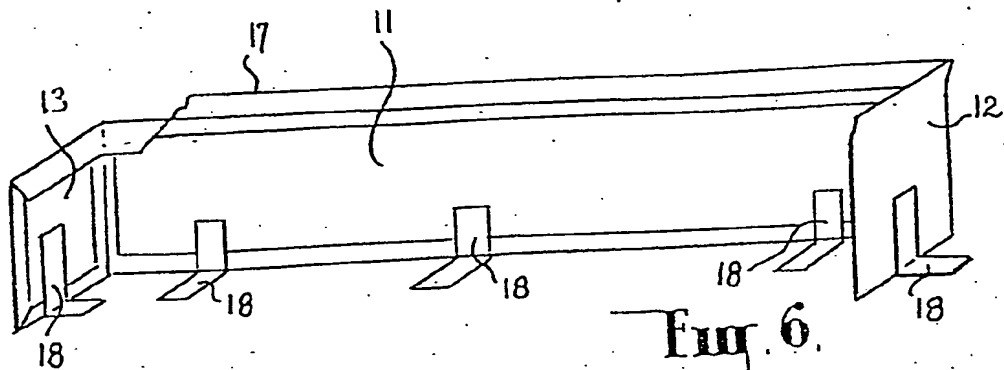
**Fig. 3.**



**Fig. 4.**



**Fig. 5.**



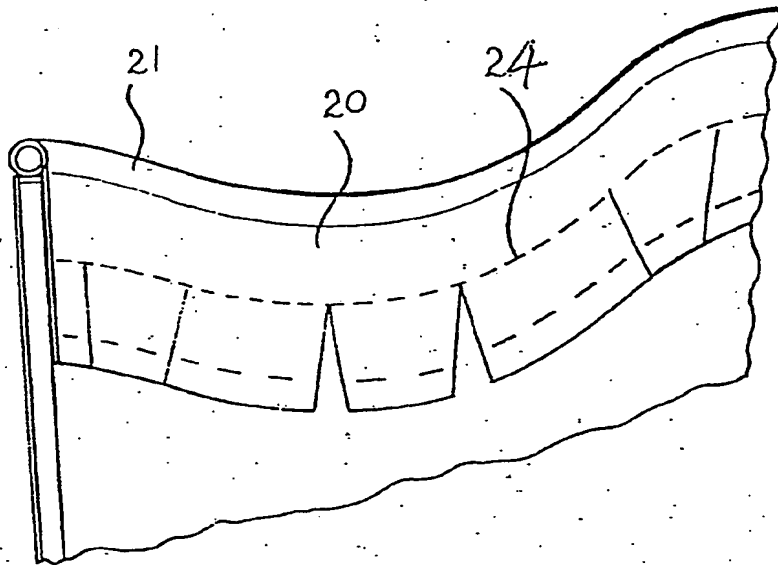


Fig. 11.



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